

**To:** Kumar, Chitra[Chitra\_M\_Kumar@ceq.eop.gov]  
**From:** binetti, victoria  
**Sent:** Thur 3/27/2014 8:46:12 AM  
**Subject:** RE: WV Council of Churches (WVCC)

Hi, Chitra. Your work at CEQ must be very exciting. I was in DC for the ASDWA-ACWA-GWPC-EPA meetings and our DW Branch Chiefs' meeting a couple of weeks ago, and I know you're missed in OGWDW.

I don't know [REDACTED], and have not had any personal contact with him, so I can't provide any insight, unfortunately. But certainly lots of folks have been concerned, even outraged, because of the Freedom Chemical spill that impacted the West Virginia American Water Supply. Although samples collected in the distribution system remain pretty much at the "non-detect level" (less than 10 and even less than 2 ppb), there continues to be concern over the safety of the water supply on the part of the public, and a loss of confidence. This has been exacerbated by occasional detections of the odor associated with the spilled chemical, 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM). It has a very, very low odor threshold—much lower than the analytical detection limit. In reaction to the spill, the legislature has developed new requirements for owners/operators of above-ground storage tanks, and for source water protection plans for water suppliers (with exceptions and exemptions, of course), but the governor hasn't yet signed the bill.

Some have pointed out that the loss of a safe, reliable water supply is something many West Virginians face routinely, especially in rural and impoverished areas. There are concerns about legacy and even current impacts to ground water and surface water sources (some public water supply issues, and many private well concerns) from mining operations and waste disposal, and some concerns about impacts from the natural gas industry. Some studies suggest that health impacts in some areas are associated with environmental effects of mining, or other industrial development. Mr. [REDACTED] may raise broader concerns, in this vein.

I'll check with a few folks, and if I learn anything, I'll forward. (If you don't hear from me, I won't have any info to offer.) Please share what you hear, if you think it would be helpful to us here in the Region.--Vicky

**From:** Kumar, Chitra [mailto:Chitra\_M\_Kumar@ceq.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:05 PM  
**To:** binetti, victoria  
**Subject:** WV Council of Churches (WVCC)

Hi Vicky,

Hope things are going well in R3.

You may have heard that I'm over at CEQ for the year. Well, the WV Council of Churches (WVCC) Director Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy is coming in to speak with us tomorrow afternoon. He apparently has been active on the chemical spill issue. I was wondering if you have any intel on what he might ask us about. No need to do anything more than share what you already know, if anything.

Many thanks,

Chitra Kumar

Deputy Associate Director for Water

White House Council on Environmental Quality

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